TL987

A MEMORIAL SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE AT SANTA CRUZ CEMETERY, DILI, EAST TIMOR NOVEMBER 12, 1991

Thursday, November 12, 1992, 2.00 pm
Chapel, Church Center for the United Nations
777 U.N. Plaza, New York City

A MOMENT OF SILENT REMEMBRANCE ...

The role of remembrance has always been crucial for religious believers.

Remembrance is the means whereby spiritual vitality and hope are brought into the present for the future.

It is more than a mere recalling of an objective memory image.

The past is recalled into the present so that through the act of remembrance it is brought before us as challenges and hopes for a transformative future through struggle and commitment.

As we recall the first anniversary of the November 12, 1991 massacre by Indonesian soldiers of mourners on their way to the Santa Cruz Cemetery in Dili, East Timor, we remember the more than 200.000 people who have died in that little unknown region of the world since the Indonesian invasion in December 7, 1975.

On this occasion we come together as representatives of many traditions to express our solidarity with the people of East Timor and to pray for those who have died since the occupation of that region in 1975.

May God grant peace with justice to the people of East Timor, and guidance into the way of love and mercy to heal our strife-torn world.

***HYMN: "O God of Love, O God of Peace"**

1. O God of love, O God of Peace,
Make wars throughout the world to cease;
The wrath of nations now restrain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

2. Remember, God, Thy works of old,
The wonders that Thy people told;
Remember not our sin's deep stain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

3. Whom shall we trust but Thee, O God?
Where rest but on Thy faithful word?
None ever called on Thee in vain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

4. Where saints and angels dwell above,
All hearts are knit in holy love;
O bind us in that heavenly chain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

INVOCATION **Fr. David Couturier, OFM**

CALL TO REMEMBRANCE AND WITNESS
Kan Akatani, Special Advisor, Japanese Council for Justice and Peace;
Nelson Santos, Timorese Youth

A CALL TO PRAYER **Nancy Small, Executive Director, Pax Christi**

Responsorial Psalm 64

Leader: Hear my voice, O God,
in my complaint;
preserve my life
from the dread enemy.
People: HIDE ME FROM THE SECRET PLOTS
OF THE WICKED, FROM THE SCHEMING
OF EVILDOERS, WHO WHET THEIR TONGUES
LIKE SWORDS, WHO AIM BITTER WORDS
LIKE ARROWS,
Leader: Shooting from ambush at the blameless;
they shoot suddenly and without fear.
They hold fast to their evil purpose;
they talk of laying snares secretly,
thinking,
People: "WHO CAN SEE US? WHO CAN SEARCH OUT
CRIMES? WE HAVE THOUGHT OUT
A CUNNINGLY CONCEIVED PLOT."

FOR THE HUMAN HEART AND MIND ARE DEEP.

Leader: But God will shoot God's arrow at them;
they will be wounded suddenly.
Because of their tongue God will bring them
to ruin; all who will see them will shake
with horror.

People: THEN EVERYONE WILL FEAR;
THEY WILL TELL
WHAT GOD HAS BROUGHT ABOUT,
AND PONDER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

Leader: Let the righteous rejoice in the Sovereign
and take refuge in God.

People: LET ALL THE UPRIGHT IN HEART GLORY.

WITNESS OF THE ANCIENT SCRIPTURES

Lamentations 1:1-5; 3:52-57
Gerry Puelle, Lutheran World Federation
Isaiah 65:17-24
Elice Higginbotham
United Church of Christ, New York CIRCUS
Luke 4:14-21
Robert McClean,
United Methodist Office for the U.N.

REFLECTIONS

A COLLECT (said by all):

GRANT, O GOD, TO ALL YOUR SERVANTS WHO ARE BEARING A COSTLY WITNESS TO YOUR TRUTH THAT THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS MAY BE AS BECOMES THE COMPANIONS OF THE GOD OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE; THAT THEY MAY STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT, STRIVING TOGETHER FOR FAITH, HOPE, AND LIFE; THAT IN NO WAY TERRIFIED BY THEIR ADVERSARIES THEY MAY BE BOLD ON BEHALF OF THE GOD OF PEACE, NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE, BUT ALSO IF NEED BE TO SUFFER AS THE SUFFERING SERVANT GOD; WHO LIVES AND REIGNS BOTH NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. Dr. William L. Wipfler,
Associate for Human Rights,
Anglican Observer at the U.N.

Leader: Let us pray.

Look with mercy, Almighty and Loving God, upon the people of East Timor and of every land who live with injustice, terror, poverty and death as their constant companions. Forgive us for our apathy and silence. Help us eliminate our indifference to the indignities suffered by these our neighbors. Strengthen our will to struggle with those who spend their lives to establish the universal recognition of the human rights of all your children. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the treasures of your creation. We ask this all in your Holy Name.

People: GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Leader: Thus says the Lord... "Let justice roll down like a mighty river...."

People: GOD OF JUSTICE, HELP US TO HEAR YOUR WORD BOTH AS AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR WILL FOR ALL AND AS YOUR CALL TO US.

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."

People: GOD OF PEACE, HELP US NEVER TO SEPARATE YOUR PROMISE OF PEACE FROM YOUR CALL TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OTHERS.

Leader: In the Old and New Testaments we read of your Servant: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because... he has sent me to proclaim release to the captives... and... to set at liberty those who are oppressed...."

People: GOD OF FREEDOM, HELP US TO FEEL THE WEIGHT OF CHAINS THAT BIND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS SO THAT TOGETHER WE MAY RISE UP TO CAST THEM OFF.

Leader: Scripture reminds us: "With God's own right hand and with God's mighty arm, God has gotten the victory."

People: GOD OF VICTORY, HELP US NEVER TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE LAST WORD BELONGS NOT TO EVIL BUT TO YOU.

All: HEAR US, GOD OF JUSTICE, PEACE, FREEDOM, VICTORY, AND IN YOUR INFINITE LOVE ANSWER; FOR WE RAISE OUR PRAYERS TO YOU IN CONFIDENCE AND FAITH.

AN OFFERING OF SOLIDARITY

The Offering will begin with an Offering of Symbols, each symbol followed by a prayer. After each prayer is offered, the congregation is invited to respond by saying, **"God, hear our prayer."** The congregation is invited to join in the offering of money at the conclusion.**

PRAYER OF RESOLVE AND COMMITMENT

Leader: Remember your leaders, those who first spoke God's message to you; and reflecting upon the outcome of their life and work, follow the example of their faith.

People: AND NOW, O GOD, ENABLE US TO SPEAK YOUR WORD WITH BOLDNESS. STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND TO HEAL AND CAUSE SIGNS AND WONDERS TO BE DONE AMONG US THAT PEACE AND JUSTICE MAY REIGN THROUGHOUT YOUR REALM.

All: LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE, FROM FALSEHOOD TO TRUTH. LEAD US FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE, FROM FEAR TO TRUST. LEAD US FROM HATE TO LOVE, FROM WAR TO PEACE. LET PEACE FILL OUR HEART, OUR WORLD, OUR UNIVERSE. AMEN

***HYMN: "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"**

1. Through the night of doubt and sorrow
Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,

Marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
Gleams and burns the guiding light;
Sister claps the hand of brother,
Stepping fearless through the night.

2. One the light of God's own presence,
O'er God's ransomed people shed,
Chasing far the gloomy terror,
Brightening all the path we tread;
One the object of our journey,
One the faith which never tires,
One the earnest looking forward,
One the hope our God inspires.

3. One the strain that lips of thousands
Lift as from the heart of one,
One the conflict, one the peril,
One the march in God begun;
One the gladness of rejoicing
On the far eternal shore,
Where the one almighty Creator
Reigns in love forevermore.

***BENEDICTION**
POSTLUDE

** The offering will help support the Darwin East Timor School, which provides education for refugee children from East Timor living in Darwin, Australia. A portion will also be used to defray the rental costs for use of the chapel today.